

Message Text

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53

ACTION AF-18

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 ISO-00 SSC-01 AID-20 CIAE-00 DODE-00

PM-07 H-03 INR-11 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-07 PA-04 RSC-01

PRS-01 SP-03 SS-20 USIA-15 PC-04 SPM-01 EB-11 COME-00

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P R 251125Z JUL 74

FM AMEMBASSY ABIDJAN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 9581

INFO AMEMBASSY COTONOU

AMEMBASSY LOME

AMEMBASSY NIAMEY

AMEMBASSY OUAGADOUGOU

AMEMBASSY PARIS

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E.O. 11652: NA

TAGS: PGOV, IV

SUBJECT: MINOR CABINET RESHUFFLE IN IVORY COAST

REF: A) ABIDJAN 5160 B) ABIDJAN 5422 C) ABIDJAN 645

1. SUMMARY: THE LONG-RUMORED CABINET RESHUFFLE WAS ANNOUNCED JULY 24, 1974. THE CHANGES WERE MINIMAL. TWO MINISTERS AND TWO SECRETARIES OF STATE WERE DISMISSED, THREE MINISTERS CHANGED PORTFOLIO, AND THREE NEW MINISTERS AND FOUR NEW SECRETARIES OF STATE WERE NAMED. FOUR CHANGES IN FUNCTIONS IN THE TOP POSITIONS OF THE ARMED FORCES WERE ANNOUNCED AT THE SAME TIME. END OF SUMMARY.

2. THE LONG-RUMORED CABINET RESHUFFLE OF THE GOIC WAS ANNOUNCED JULY 24 AFTER A 15-MINUTE MEETING OF THE COUNCIL OF MINISTERS. ONLY FORMER MINISTER OF INFORMATION EDMOND BOUAZAO AND FORMER MINISTER OF PUBLIC WORKS KADJI GRAH AND SECSTATE FOR POST AND TELE-
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COMMUNICATION DOUKOURI AND SECSTATE FOR REFORESTATION TORO WERE

DISMISSED.

3. THE PRINCIPAL MINISTERS WITH WHOM THE EMBASSY DEALS ALL RETAINED THEIR PORTFOLIOS: USHER OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS, BEDIE OF ECONOMY AND FINANCE, DIAWARA OF PLAN, SAWADOGO OF AGRICULTURE, AND AYE OF HEALTH AND POPULATION.

3. THE BEST KNOWN OF THE THREE NEW MINISTERS IS LAURENT DONA FOLOGO AS MINISTER OF INFORMATION. DONA FOLOGO HAS BEEN EDITOR IN CHIEF OF THE DAILY FRATERNITE-MATIN SINCE 1964 AND A MEMBER OF THE POLITBURO OF THE PARTY SINCE 1970. HE IS THE FOUNDER AND DIRECTOR OF THE WEEKLY IVOIRE-DIMANCHE. HE IS PRESIDENT OF THE NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF JOURNALISTS AND CURRENT PRESIDENT OF THE INTERNATIONAL UNION OF FRANCOPHONE JOURNALISTS. HE IS 35 YEARS OLD.

4. A NEW PORTFOLIO, MINISTER OF COMMERCE, WAS CREATED AND MAURICE SERI GNOLEBA WAS NAMED TO FILL IT. GNOLEBA, 39 YEARS OLD, HAS A BROAD FINANCIAL BACKGROUND INCLUDING INSPECTOR GENERAL OF FINANCE, TREASURER, GOVERNOR OF IMF, AND ADMINISTRATOR OF THE CENTRAL BANK FOR WEST AFRICA (BCEAO). HE IS A MEMBER OF THE POLITBURO.

5. THE THIRD NEW MINISTER IS DESIRE BONI, WHO MOVES UP FROM DIRECTOR GENERAL OF PUBLIC WORKS TO REPLACE KADJI GRAH, FORMER MIN PUBLIC WORKS. BONI IS 39, IVORIAN EDUCATED, AND A TECHNICIAN WHO HAS COME UP THROUGH THE RANKS. HE IS NOT A MEMBER OF THE POLITBURO.

6. FOUR NEW SECRETARIES OF STATE WERE CREATED AND FOUR YOUNG MEN, TWO OF WHOM ARE MILITARY OFFICERS, WERE NAMED TO FILL THEM: GENDARMERIE COLONEL GASTON OUASSENAN KONE, FORMER GENDARMARIE COMMANDER, WAS NAMED SECRETARY OF STATE AT THE INTERIOR MINISTRY. HE IS 35 YEARS OLD; NAVY LIEUTENANT COMMANDER LAMINE MOHAMED FADIGA, FORMER NAVY COMMANDER (NOW IN FRENCH WAR COLLEGE AND MILITARY ATTACHE IN PARIS) WAS NAMED SECRETARY OF STATE FOR MARINE AFFAIRS. HE IS 32 YEARS OLD; CLEMENT KAUL MELEDJE, FORMER DIRECTOR OF POLITICAL AFFAIRS, WAS NAMED SECRETARY OF STATE FOR FOREIGN AFFAIRS. HE IS 40 YEARS OLD; BANGALI KONE, FORMER DIRECTOR GENERAL OF INTEL CI (IVORIAN SECTION OF INTEL SAT), WAS NAMED LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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SECRETARY OF STATE OF POSTS AND TELECOMMUNICATIONS. HE IS 38 YEARS OLD.

7. IN THE MILITARY FORCES, FORMER ARMY CHIEF OF STAFF OUATTARA THOMAS DAQUIN MOVED UP TO INSPECTOR GENERAL OF ARMED FORCES. MAJOR GENERAL IBRAHIMA COULIBALY, FORMER DEPUTY ARMY CHIEF OF STAFF, WAS NAMED ARMY CHIEF OF STAFF. GENDARMERIE COLONEL OUMAR N'DAW, FORMER COMMANDER OF THE PRESIDENTIAL GUARD AND PRESIDENTIAL

MILITARY AIDE, WAS NAMED GENDARMERIE COMMANDER. LTC ISSOUF KONE, FORMER COMMANDR OF THE 1ST BATTALION, WAS NAMED DEPUTY TO THE ARMY CHIEF OF STAFF.

8. ON PORTFOLIO CHANGES: FORMER MINISTER OF STATE FOR TOURISM MATHIEU EKRA BECOMES MINISTER OF STATE FOR INTERIOR; FORMER MINISTER OF STATE WITHOUT PORTFOLIO N'DIA COFFE BECOMES MINISTER OF STATE FOR TOURISM; FORMER MINISTER OF INTERIOR NANLO BAMBA NOW HEADS THE NEWLY CREATED MINISTER OF WATER AND FORESTS.

9. ETAILS FOLLOW BY AIRGRAM.
SMITH

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